

The true State of the Case of the **SIX CLERKS**
in **CHANCERY**, with Reference to the
Under-Clerks, and a **BILL** now depending in
PARLIAMENT.

THe said Six Clerks are very Antient Officers, and have been time out of mind in the same condition, as now they are; and have been incorporated by Act of Parliament and several Letters Patents.

The said Six Clerks have always had a Freehold in their said Offices and Fees for their Lives; but the Clerks under them, have had no other interest, then as Servants to them.

The Fees incident to the said Offices of Six Clerks have been time out of mind, the same they now are; and have passed divers Examinations within the last 100 years before Commissioners appointed to enquire of Extortion in all Offices, and Exactions of Fees, and at length in all of them have been allowed and confirmed as reasonable and just.

No Crime or Misdemeanor hath been objected or pretended against any of the said Six Clerks in their Offices.

The Employment of the said Six Clerks consists as well in the immediate Service to the King and his Affairs, as in business between Party and Party.

The said Six Clerks onely, and not the Under-Clerks, are in Law esteemed the Clerks in Court for the managing the business thereof, and are onely answerable to the Suitor for all Miscarriages: It is therefore requisite that Persons of Estate and Quality be in those Offices.

Much of the Office of the said Six Clerks hath always been (and cannot be otherwise) executed in proper person.

The said Under-Clerks (led by the same Levelling Principles as now, and many of them the same Persons) in the year 1654. did (without any hearing of the Six Clerks, under the Usurpation of Cromwell) procure an Ordinance for setting aside the then Six Clerks, and altering the Antient Constitution: but the pretended Parliament called in the year 1656. finding that Innovation inconvenient, thought not fit to continue that New Ordinance longer than their own Session, and so it vanished, and the Six Clerks were restored.

As to the Abatement of Fees in the Bill mentioned, It is an Argument rather of the Promoters Avarice, then any good will to the Publick. And if it shall find Encouragement, every Servant or Inferior Officer, if he may have his Masters or Superiors Place, will be ready to abate part of his due profit.

The Multiplication of Officers that shall have the keeping of the Records; will in that one respect, besides many other Inconveniencies, put the Subject to as great a Charge by uncertainty of Search; as the Abatement will give him ease.

As to the pretence of increase of business, and thereby a necessity of a greater number of Attorneys, It is answered, That when the business of the Court was much more than now, it was dispatched, by the Six Clerks with their Under-Clerks acting under them, to the satisfaction of all men. And there can be no ground for this pretence, but that the Under-Clerks would act now as Masters, without any Superior to inspect their Proceedings, by whose Misdemeanors alone, all Delays and Disorders (that have hitherto happened) have been occasioned; from whence its easie to judge what their Dealings will be if they shall come to act by themselves.